एकत्र की जा रही है और सभापटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Setting up of illness Assistance Fund for the Poor

383. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Illness Assistance Fund has been set up at National and State Level to help the poor undergoing expensive medical treatment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the guidelines issued as to the eligibility of patients to receive assistance from this fund and the authority to which application has to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) National Illness Assistance Fund has been set up vide Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Resolution dated 13.1.97, which has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) (Part I - Section - I) (No. 9).

It has been provided in this Scheme that every State\U.T. (with Legislature) may set up an illness Assistance Fund, which shall be a registered society. The donation received by this society from State Govt.\U.T. Admn. will be supplemented by grant-in-aid from Central Govt. to the extent of 50% of the contribution made by the State Govt.\U.T. subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 crores for States which have a larger portion of population living below poverty line and of Rs. 2 crores for other State\UTs. The poverty line shall be as defined by Planning Commission. The Fund could also be subscribed by individuals corporate bodies and other national\international philanthropic organisation. The contributions received by this Fund would be exempted from payment of Income Tax under section 80(G) of Income Tax Act. The accounts of the society would be audited by A.G. of the State\U.T. every year.

This Fund would release financial assistance to patients, below poverty line, living in India, suffering from life-threatening diseases for undergoing medical treatment at any of the superspeciality Hospitals\Institutes or other Govt.\private Hospitals, participating in the Scheme. The assistance will be in the form of a one-time grant which will be released to the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, in which the treatment has been received.

A provision of Rs. 25 crores has been made in the budget grant of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare during 1996-97 for release of grant-in-aid to State\UT.

It has also been decided that a National Illness Assistance Fund should be set up with an initial donation from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Rs. 5 crores. This Fund could also be subscribed by individuals, corporate bodies and non-corporate bodies. The contributions made to this fund will also be exempt from payment of Income Tax under section 80(G) of Income Tax Act. The Management Committee of NIAF will be chaired by Union Health Minister. The NIAF will be registered Society and its accounts will be subject to audit by C&AG every year.

Wherever the quantum of financial assistance to a poor patient is less than Rs. 1.5 lakhs, the release will be done by the Fund at the State/U.T. level and if the quantum of assistance is in excess of Rs. 1.5 lakhs, in an individual case, the case will be recommended to NIAF at the Centre.

NIAF will also decide about the budget outlay for grant of similar assistance to be released to such population living in UTs without Legislature.

Applications for necessary financial assistance under this Scheme can be addressed to the Illness Assistance Fund of the respective State\UT or NIAF.

Policy for providing Medical Care for All

384. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are finalising a New Health Policy to provide medical care to all;

(b) if so, the details of the present status of the proposal;

(c) details of thrust areas in terms of extending coverage of basic health facilities for rural and urban poor; and